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monograph of the heterocysted Nostochaceæ, the synonymy here is quite meager; those who are interested in the *ganzen Ballast veralteter Namen aus jener Zeit* are referred to Agardh's, Kutzing's, and Harvey's works. References to standard plates are abundant, but there are practically no references to published exsiccatæ, which is often unfortunate; a plate can tell only what the artist saw, or even only what he chose to represent; the plant itself, if in proper condition, is ready to answer questions that never occurred to the artist or the author. The plates in the present work give an instance of this: when a figure is intended to show the position of certain cells, it shows that with the utmost distinctness, but usually nothing more; no indications of thickness of cell walls, character of chromatophores, etc.; where some other character is under consideration, that is given the prominence, to the exclusion or subordination of all others. The plates, however, tell admirably what they undertake to tell; if we were told also where we could find the plant itself, nothing more could be asked. But some remarks by the author as to specimens which belong to several distinct species and appear as autograph authentic specimens of a single species may account for a reluctance to give exsiccatæ numbers.

The work is written in a clear and comprehensible style, and now and then contains a graphic expression, which, if not necessary for scientific value, certainly does not detract from it. It would seem that any student, with even a fair knowledge of German, could use the work readily. The ordinary American student, however, will be more likely to borrow the copy of some well-to-do friend than to own one, the price being 120 marks.

Californian Nitophylla.[1] — In the historical sketch with which this paper opens, the first reference to Californian Nitophylla is given as "W. H. Harvey, 1858, Pt. II, p. 104, Suppl., p. 128." This is misleading, as Part II of the *Nereis* was published in 1853; Part III, with the supplement, in 1858. Thus the history of Nitophyllum in California dates back five years earlier than given by the author. The latest reference is in 1898, when J. G. Agardh published Vol. III, Part III, of the *Epicrisis* (noticed in the *American Naturalist* for June, 1899), giving fourteen species for the west coast of America. Mr. Nott's careful study of living and dried material, from all parts of the coast, shows that six of these must be considered merely forms of the other eight. A new species, *N. corallinarum*, is added, together with the New Zealand species, *N. harveyanum*, making the final list ten.

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[1] Nott, Charles Palmer. Nitophylla of California, Description and Distribution, *Proc. Cal. Acad. Sci.*, Ser. 3, Botany, vol. ii (1901). 62 pp., 9 pls.

The genus has a world-wide distribution and includes many handsome species, with large, delicate, more or less veined membranes of various shades of red. The Californian species are not inferior to others in size and beauty, and the present paper gives a careful study of them, with ample description, full synonymy and references. The considerable variation occurring in some species is noted as accounting for the new species proposed by Agardh; unless one had a large series of forms of *N. ruprechtianum*, for instance, it would be perfectly natural to describe extreme forms as distinct species.

The plates illustrating this paper are by a photolithographic process, and, while showing fairly well the habit of the broader membraned species, are less satisfactory with the other species. Dependence in determining must be had on the text and the references to exsiccatæ.

Alaskan Algæ. — This paper[1] gives quite an addition to our knowledge of the marine and fresh-water flora of our northwest coast, nearly half of the marine and more than half the fresh-water species being new to Alaska. The really northern flora of the west coast begins at Puget Sound, practically all the species from this point north being distinctively northern in character, though some of them extend south to central California. Of the red and brown algæ, 55 are circumpolar or found in the north Atlantic, 49 peculiar to the Pacific. In the table, p. 394, these 49 species are in a column headed "Peculiar to the Pacific Coast of North America." As this column includes such Asiatic species as *Cystophyllum lepidium* and *Odonthalia kamtschatica*, and such south Pacific species as *Macrocystis pyrifera*, the heading is very misleading. If it were intended to say that they were not found on any coast of North America except the Pacific, it would be true, but that is not the natural meaning of the words. Nine new species are described and figured by Mr. Saunders, *Streblonema pacificum*, *S. irregulare*, *S. minutissimum*, *Dermocarpa fucicola*, *Homœostroma lobatum*, *Myelophycus intestinalis*, *Coilodesme linearis*, *Mesogloia simplex*, and *Alaria fragilis;* also *Pleurophycus gardneri* Setchell and Saunders; a few less familiar forms already described are figured, a plate is given of a

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[1] Saunders, De Alton. Papers from the Harriman Alaska Expedition. XXV. The Algæ. *Proc. Wash. Acad. Sci.*, vol. iii (Nov. 15, 1901), pp. 391–486, Pls. XLIII–LXII.